

MARRIAGE PROTECTION WEEK

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Mr. FRANKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of President Bush's designation of this week as "Marriage Protection Week." I commend the President for his exemplary leadership in the vital effort to preserve and strengthen America's families.

It is with complete respect to the Constitution as—according to George Washington—"the guide which I will never abandon," that I feel compelled to speak on behalf of a federal marriage amendment.

Judicial recklessness has become the breeding ground for challenges against the institution of marriage. Recent court decisions, like *Lawrence v. Texas* have set a dangerous precedent. Sadly, America's courts continue to abuse their power by legislating from the bench, and usurping the will of the people. I am concerned that the state laws that define marriage between a man and a woman are in jeopardy of being struck down by the court's total disregard for the law as it is written.

However, there is good news concerning the sanctity of marriage from my home state of Arizona. Recently, a three-judge court-of-appeals panel in Arizona upheld a 1996 state law that defined marriage as the union of a man and a woman. They said in their decision [and I quote], that "the fundamental right to marry protected by our federal and state constitutions does not encompass the right to marry a same sex partner." Here, the courts simply read the state and federal constitutions as they are written, and applied them without prejudice.

Across the Nation, support for House Joint Resolution 56, "The Federal Marriage Amendment"—a constitutional amendment defining marriage as a sacred institution between a man and woman—is rapidly growing. A recent poll taken by the Associated Press showed that 54 percent of Americans are in support of a constitutional amendment that would define marriage as a union between a man and a woman. This same poll showed that 53 percent are also opposed to so-called "civil unions." House Joint Resolution 56 is coming close to obtaining 100 cosponsors, and support for the sanctity of marriage is building on both sides of the aisle. I commend my friend and colleague from Colorado, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, for having the courage to introduce H.J. Res. 56. It is my hope, that this body will take a bold stand and defend the definition of marriage as the sacred union of a man and a woman.

Thank you Mr. President, for your leadership.

HONORING MAYOR SAMSON

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mr. Dave Samson, the late Mayor of Sunny Isles Beach. Mr. Samson was not only an exemplary civic leader, but a great

Floridian, and a caring husband, father and grandfather.

Since retiring in 1972 as a business owner in Chicago, Samson promptly moved to South Florida. Always eager to assist his fellow citizens and be active within the community, Samson became involved in many civic affairs, as he assumed the position of president of his condominium association. Eventually, Samson was recognized as the leader of Miami-Dade County's Citizens Advisory Committee. In 1997, Samson led a successful campaign to incorporate the 3-mile-long strip in northeast Miami-Dade County, and he became the founding father of Sunny Isles Beach. He also spearheaded a large-scale movement to remake a sleepy area of low-rise motels built along Collins Avenue in the 1950s into a dream city of soaring condominium towers.

Not to be forgotten, Mayor Samson, the one and only Mayor of Sunny Isles Beach, was devoted to his family, his work, and his community. He was a remarkable man who was still working hard on his city's vision at age 88, up until his death this past weekend.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor to stand here today and remember the life of an exemplary citizen of South Florida, one who devoted himself to his constituents, friends and family, and always sought a better quality of life for his community. His legacy will surely last a lifetime. Mr. Samson is survived by his wife, Marion, with whom he recently celebrated his 64th wedding anniversary, sons Michael and Stuart, and seven grandchildren.

RECOGNIZING THE PUBLIC SERVICE OF DAN CORSON

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dan Corson, who will retire next month as a member of the Boulder, Colorado City Council.

Elected to the Council in 1997, Don has had a notable career in public service.

Dan graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from Miami University in Ohio, received a Master of Arts degree from the University of Denver, and a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Colorado Law School. He clerked for Judge Luis Rovira in Denver District Court and worked as an attorney in civil litigation.

As a member of Colorado Preservation, Inc., the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Historic Boulder and the Colorado Heritage Area Partnership, Dan has been a strong contributor to saving Colorado's history. Dan also served as a member of the City of Boulder's Planning Board and the City Landmarks Preservation Advisory Board, and shared his expertise to benefit the community and the state.

Dan now serves as the local government liaison for the Colorado Historical Society, working with citizens and local government officials interested in establishing historic preservation commissions by offering technical advice, drafting ordinances and resolutions and offering training regarding conducting meetings, preservation law and design review. Dan

also administers grants to both local governments and the Historic Preservation Fund grants from the National Park Service.

Committed to providing progressive leadership on the City Council, Corson worked diligently to forge a strategy to find more affordable housing for Boulder citizens, while tightening the city's budget during difficult economic times. He also supported the largest purchase of open space in the city's history.

With the unique combination of public, private and nonprofit experience, Dan Corson has been an admirable public servant committed to bringing wisdom and innovative ideas to city government.

On behalf of the residents of Boulder, I thank him for his service on the Boulder City Council and wish him well in all his future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO THE DESPLAINES VALLEY NEWS ON ITS 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding organization from my District on the south side of Chicago, Illinois. I would like to honor the Desplaines Valley News in celebrating 90 years of service to its community this year.

Founded as "the People's Paper" on October 13, 1913 by A.S. Bushkevitz in Lemont, Illinois, The Desplaines Valley News now serves twelve suburbs southwest of Chicago and provides circulation to the communities of Argo-Summit, Bedford Park, Bridgeview, Brookfield, Countryside, Hodgkins, Indian Head Park, Justice, Lyons, McCook, Willow Springs and the LaGrange Highlands.

This neighborhood newspaper has provided uninterrupted news coverage on local, state, and national events every week for the past nine decades. Since 1986, the John C. Noonan family has been dedicated to publishing the Desplaines Valley News. Currently, the Noonan family distributes the weekly publication to subscribers both through newsprint and the internet.

I would like to pay tribute to the Desplaines Valley News, as it is a shining example of the ideals under which our nation was founded.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the Desplaines Valley News for the many years it has provided services to the community and wish them the very best in the years yet to come.

RECOGNITION OF THE BROOKPORT LIBRARY

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before you today to recognize Brookport Library located in Brookport, Illinois.

I recently visited the Library and wanted to share their story with you.

The Brookport Library was established in 1991 by the Brookport Betterment Committee (BBC) Inc.

The Library was housed in an area of the old Brookport Grade School, which was leased by the school district for \$1 per year. With no water or heat, except for a kerosene heater located close to the librarian, the Library remained at this location until 1997.

At this time, the old school building was demolished, and the books, along with everything else, went into storage.

In March of 1998, papers were signed and once more the Library had a home, 103 East Third Street. The old house had charm but it wasn't long before it began bulging at the seams.

In the meantime, some very generous donations were made which were earmarked for a building, and in April 2002, the BBC purchased the building known as the Hohman Building located at the corner of U.S. 45 and Seventh Street.

Following some major remodeling, the Library opened for business on November 4, 2002.

The Library relies solely on donations and volunteers, so if anyone is interested in helping the Brookport Library, please contact the Library or any board member.

I want to especially thank Judy Askew, the chairman; Ann Douglas, secretary/head librarian; Leah Slayden, treasurer; and Rosemary Hohman and Barbara Call for the work they continue to do to make this library such a special place.

REVISED VERSION OF BILL TO FACILITATE ACQUISITION OF MINERAL RIGHTS AT ROCKY FLATS

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 15, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing a revised version of a bill to facilitate the acquisition by the Federal Government of mineral rights or other non-Federal interests in lands that are located within the boundaries of the Rocky Flats site in Colorado.

The bill is cosponsored by my Colorado colleague, Representative BEAUPREZ. It is based on H.R. 2653, which I introduced earlier this year, but includes a number of changes reflecting suggestions by Representative BEAUPREZ. I greatly appreciate his support for this measure.

BACKGROUND

In the 1950's, the Federal Government bought land at Rocky Flats for use as a production facility for nuclear-weapon components. However, the purchase did not include all the mineral rights, some of which remained in private ownership.

Production at Rocky Flats ended more than a decade ago. Since then, the Department of Energy, through its contractors, has been working to have the site cleaned up and closed.

ROCKY FLATS WILDLIFE REFUGE ACT

In 2001, Congress passed legislation I sponsored with Senator WAYNE ALLARD to guide the future of Rocky Flats. Under that legislation—the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act of 2001—once the cleanup and closure are accomplished, most of the land at Rocky Flats will be transferred from the De-

partment of Energy to the Department of the Interior and will be managed as a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

The refuge act includes some provisions related to the non-Federal minerals—primarily sand and gravel—at Rocky Flats. It says "nothing in this [law] limits any valid, existing . . . mineral right" except for "such reasonable conditions on access . . . as are appropriate for the cleanup and closure of Rocky Flats and for the management of the refuge." And it says that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between DOE and Interior is to "address the impacts" mineral rights "may have on the management of the refuge, and provide strategies for resolving or mitigating these impacts."

These provisions were included in the refuge act in order to make clear that while these mineral rights are to be respected as private property, future development of the minerals could have adverse effects on the land, wildlife habitat, and other values of the future wildlife refuge. That is why Congress directed the agencies to consider these potential future effects and work to find ways to mitigate those impacts.

So far, however, the Energy and Interior Departments have not been able to agree on what to do about the minerals, and the MOU has not been completed.

I think the best way to handle this would be for the Federal Government to acquire the minerals. However, neither DOE nor Interior has made this a priority, and the current budgetary situation places constraints on such acquisitions.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The Udall-Beauprez bill is intended to make it more feasible for the Interior Department to acquire some or all of the minerals. It would do that by giving the Secretary of the Interior two additional methods (either instead of or in addition to purchase for cash) for completing such acquisitions—

(1) by giving "credits" that could be used instead of cash to pay for oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf; and

(2) by allowing federal lands or minerals anywhere in the country to be exchanged for the Rocky Flats minerals (under current law, such exchanges can only occur within the same State—Colorado lands/minerals for other Colorado lands/minerals).

The bill has no compulsory provisions. It would not require that any of the non-Federal interests at Rocky Flats be acquired by the government. It also would not require anyone to accept anything other than cash for any interests that the government may acquire—any transaction involving the new "credits" or any exchange could take place only with the concurrence of the party selling minerals to the United States. It would merely provide the Interior Department with new tools—in addition to those it already has—for such acquisitions.

In addition, the bill includes a provision to make clear that the Federal Government cannot expand the Rocky Flats site by obtaining any non-Federal lands or interests in lands that are outside the site's boundaries except with the consent of the owners of those lands or interests.

In developing the original bill, I sought and obtained technical assistance from the Interior Department, gave careful consideration to comments from local governments and others in Colorado, and made revisions to earlier

drafts of the legislation in response to points raised in those comments.

Mr. Speaker, this bill—the "Rocky Flats Minerals Acquisition Act"—is narrow in scope. However, I think it can assist in successful implementation of something that is very important for all Coloradans—the establishment of the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge. I think it deserves the support of every Member of the House.

For the information of our colleagues, here is a short outline of the revised bill:

OUTLINE OF REVISED ROCKY FLATS MINERALS ACQUISITION BILL

BACKGROUND

When the ongoing cleanup of the Rocky Flats site is completed, it will be closed and most of the site will be transferred to the Interior Department for management as a National Wildlife Refuge. Within the site's boundaries there are some privately-owned mineral rights (primarily sand and gravel). Federal acquisition of at least some of these mineral rights would further sound management of the site as a wildlife refuge. However, the current budgetary situation makes it difficult to complete such acquisition.

The purpose of the bill is to provide the Interior Department with two additional tools to assist in the acquisition of mineral rights or other non-Federal property at Rocky Flats:

Authority to provide "credits" (instead of or in addition to cash) that could be used for bonus bids or royalties for mineral leases on the Outer Continental Shelf; and

Authority to provide eligible BLM lands (or interests) anywhere in the country in exchange for the interests acquired at Rocky Flats (waiving the current requirement that exchanges must be within the same State).

SECTION-BY-SECTION OUTLINE

Section 1

(1) provides a short title: "Rocky Flats Minerals Acquisition Act";

(2) includes findings regarding the status of Rocky Flats and the desirability of Federal acquisition of mineral interests within its boundaries; and

(3) states the bill's purpose as being to facilitate acquisition of non-Federal interests at Rocky Flats by authorizing the Interior Department to use credits or interests in certain public lands—provided that the owners of the acquired lands or interests concur—instead of or in addition to cash.

Section 2

(1) authorizes the Interior Department to use appropriated funds, credits (with the concurrence of the party transferring lands or interests to the United States), exchanged lands or interests therein, or any combination of these, to acquire mineral interests or other non-Federal interests at Rocky Flats;

(2) defines "credits," making clear that they can only be used for bonus bids or royalty payments for oil or gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf, can be transferred, and must be used within 10 years of their issuance;

(3) specifies that while exchanges can involve BLM lands or interests in any State, only lands or interests identified as suitable for disposal under current law can be transferred to private ownership through such an exchange;

(4) specifies that no lands or interests therein outside the exterior boundaries of Rocky Flats can be acquired by the United States for the purposes of the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge Act except with the consent of the owners of such lands or interests;

(5) provides that interests acquired by the United States under the bill will be managed